

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 008920
ORIGIN AGRE-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-07 STR-04 COME-00 TRSE-00
/024 R

DRAFTED BY USDA/FAS:HBFA YANS:NB
APPROVED BY EUR/NE:REWOODS
USDA/FAS:BKMEEKER
USDA/FAS:SWPHILLIPS
USDA/FDA:FCORDLE
USDA/APHIS:JSPAULDING
USDA/ERBEVIS
-----150521Z 045754 /21

R 141647Z JAN 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LONDON
INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

UNCLAS STATE 008920

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:EAGR, SWEL, UK

SUBJECT: POLYBROMINATED BIPHENYL (PBB) CONTAMINATION

REF.: LONDON 00200

1. THE PBB CONTAMINATION INCIDENT IN MICHIGAN IS CONFINED TO THAT STATE. THERE HAVE BEEN NO KNOWN EXPORTS FROM MICHIGAN TO THE UK OR TO ANY OVERSEAS AREAS OF PBB CONTAMINATED ANIMALS OR ANIMAL PRODUCTS SINCE THE INCIDENT BEGAN IN MAY 1973.

2. IN MARCH 1974, FDA RECEIVED THE FIRST COMPLAINT OF SICK ANIMALS AND A MONTH LATER USDA ANALYSES OF SAMPLES OF SUSPECTED FEED REVEALED FEED CONTAMINATION WITH PBB'S, PRI-UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 STATE 008920

MARILY HEXABROMINATED BIPHENYL. SUBSEQUENT FDA INVESTIGATIONS DISCLOSED THAT PBB'S, A CLASS OF INDUSTRIAL CHEMICALS, WERE INADVERTENTLY SUBSTITUTED FOR AN ANIMAL FEED SUPPLEMENT AND ANIMAL PROTEINS. THESE FEED PRODUCTS CONTAINING PBB'S WERE SHIPPED TO OTHER MILLS AND FARMS FOR USE IN PREPARING FINISHED FEEDS.

3. MICHIGAN HAS QUARANTINED ANIMAL HERDS THAT HAD VIOLATIVE TISSUE RESIDUES OF PBB AND ROUGHLY 30 THOUSAND ANIMALS (CATTLE, SHEEP AND HOGS) WERE DESTROYED. MONITORING OF

MICHIGAN'S ANIMALS CURRENTLY REVEALS A VERY SMALL PBB INCIDENCE LEVEL. MORE THAN 90 PERCENT OF THE CATTLE INVOLVED IN THIS CONTAMINATION INCIDENT WERE DAIRY HERDS AND THESE ANIMALS AND PRODUCTS THEREOF ARE NOT NORMALLY EXPORTED FROM MICHIGAN.

4. FDA IS IN CONTACT WITH TERENCE MONAHAN, SCIENTIFIC ADVISOR, BRITISH EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON ON THIS MATTER.

5. AS REQUIRED BY REFTTEL, THE FDS REPORT ON THIS MATTER DETAILING BACKGROUND, FEDERAL/STATE ACTIVITIES, AND PBB TOXICOLOGY REGARDING HUMANS AND ANIMALS TOGETHER WITH THE MORE RECENT PBB HEALTH SURVEY OF MICHIGAN RESIDENTS MADE BY THE MOUNT SINAI SCHOOL OF MEDICINE OF THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK HAVE BEEN AIRMAILED TO THE AGRICULTURAL ATTACHE, LONDON.

6. THE MOUNT SINAI REPORT IS A PRELIMINARY ONE AND MAY BE CHANGED SUBSEQUENTLY. FYI, IT REFLECTS THE VIEWS OF A SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF LITIGANTS INVOLVED IN THE CONTROVERSY.
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
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